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Book Review

Compte rendu de livre

Plumb's Veterinary Drug Handbook. Pocket – 7th edition

Plumb DC. 2011. Wiley-Blackwell, Ames, Iowa, USA. 1567 pp. ISBN: 9780-4709-5965-7. \$87.99.

This excellent resource is available in a number of formats (desk, pocket, CD, and electronic). The scope of species covered is wide, and includes the cat, dog, and for some drugs may include horses, rabbits, rodents, small mammals, swine, small ruminants, cattle, zoo/exotic/wildlife species, ferrets, and some birds. Most clinicians would agree that for less common species, it is still helpful to have a separate formulary to access additional species-specific issues.

The drug monographs are comprehensive, well-referenced, and up-to-date. Sections include a new feature termed **Prescriber Highlights** which gives the reader a boxed summary at the start of each monograph that provides quick access to key points. References are provided directly after each monograph, which is a time saver if one wishes to read further.

Readers are informed about the stability of many compounded versions of drugs, which is timely, considering the recent shortages of many commercial formulations. Drug interactions are presented in bold type, which is an excellent way to point the clinician to these very important safety points.

Overall it appears to be a very accurate resource. For accuracy check, the erratum page found online for the 7th edition online is short; most recent edits are dated early 2012. It is advisable to download this or a more recent one if available since as with any formulary or reference, erratums should be inserted.

Some of the drugs that are being used more frequently in practice than when the last edition was published were closely reviewed. Examples of these are maropitant and gabapentin.

Overall the reference is succinct, with practical information available in all monographs. It is reassuring to have listed references for different dose protocols right in the section.

The appendix is one that is perhaps under-used, certainly in my practice. Topical dermatological and ophthalmic products

are presented at the back of the handbook in appendices. Both sections are quite encompassing of the products used in general practice. This is an excellent addition (started with the 6th edition). The otic section follows next in the topical appendices, and is up to date as of last year's products, for those used commonly in practice. A kilogram to BSA conversion chart is available and the parenteral fluids chart is a handy feature. The prescription abbreviation chart is helpful and there is a bolded note here which suggests the short-form **S.I.D.** be eliminated from all veterinary scripts since pharmacists do not know this abbreviation. That could certainly help eliminate prescription error, so this is a great opportunity to educate veterinarians about this issue. Conversions, normals, and reference ranges are provided in short tables and lists. The phone numbers and Web sites section is helpful, although primarily pointing to American services—one link is given for Canada.

This reference is an excellent value for the dollar. Practitioners and others will find it a “*must access daily*” resource. Older editions in our practice are dog-eared, meaning well-worn, indicating the long-term utility of the Plumb drug resources.

Previous extra-label and licensed drugs are updated in this most recent addition. There are 22 additional drugs in this edition, per the publisher press release.

This is a top drawer reference for the clinic, and also a comprehensive pharmacy guide for students, both veterinary and technician. It would also serve as a solid resource for academic and research environments, and for pharmacies that provide product to veterinarians.

The Plumb's 6th edition was published May 2008, and had a higher purchase cost. The 2011 7th edition is a welcome update since much changed during those 3 years. There is definitely enough updated and new information to warrant the cost of an upgrade to the 7th edition.

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